P&L 14 Vols

Department of State TELEGRAM

(1180)

10-20-67 Saigon 9097

UNCLASSIFIED 141

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09097 201956Z

85
ACTION EA 19

INFO SP 02,SS 20,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,NSA 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,
IO 21,L 03,H 02,P 04,CIA 04,INR 07,RSR 01,/104 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Ingalls DATE: 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XGDS ☐ EXT. D'TE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
EXERCISE EXCEPTIONS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☐ RELEASE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 201230Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9265
INFO USIA WASHDC 3671

UNCLAS SAIGON 9097

1. THREE MEMBERS OF EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION GAVE BACKGROUNDER THURSDAY NIGHT IN HOME OF JUSPAO DIRECTOR ZORTHIAN ON UPCOMING GVN LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS OCT. 22. GROUND RULES FOR BACKGROUNDER STATED ATTRIBUTABLE TO INFORMED SOURCES.

2. ELECTION PICTURED AS CULMINATION OF PROCESS WHICH STARTED OVER YEAR AGO. CAMPAIGN, STARTED OCT, 6 AND RUNS THROUGH NOON OCT. 21, DECRIED A RUNNINGSMOOTHER THAN EARLIER ELECTION WITH MORE UNDERTANDING AMONG CANDIDATE AND PU LIV. ELECTIONS CREATING GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMSEM 9097 UNCLAS
ARE HELD ON LOCAL BASIS AND VOTERS WILL ELECT CANDIDATES FROM THEIR OWN DISTRICTS WHO WILL REPRESENT LOCAL INTERESTS. THE ELECTORATE ARE SHOWING GREATER INTEREST IN ISSUES THAN IN PREVIOUS ELECTION.

3. BRIEFERS SAID THIS ELECTION POSSIBLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN EARLIER ONES WILL PLACE HEAVY BURDEN SECURITY AND LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR HANDLING CAMPAIGN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09097 201956Z

RM AVERAGE OF NINE CANDIDATES FOR EACH LOWER HOUE EAT WITH OME EAT HAVING 15 TO 16 CANDIDATES VIEING FOR VOTES. THE 137 SEATS BREAK DOWN TO 1 SEAT FOR EACH 50,000 PERSONS, WITH 44 PROVINCES AND SIX URBAN AREAS BEING REPRESENTED BY ONE SEAT. IN ADDITPON THERE IS ONE SEAT FOR EACH ADDITIOMAL 25 TO 50,000 PE PLE. ALSO INCLUDED ARE 16 SEATS FOR MINORITIES: 6 CAMBODIAN, 6 SOUTH MONTAGNARDS, 2 CHAM AND 2 NORTH VIET-NAM MONTAGNARD REFUGEES.

5. ELECTION ON OCT. 22 28)) START AT 7 A.M. AND RUN THROUGH 4 P.M. IN MOST PLACES. THE BRIEFERS SAID THE COMPLAINTS ON THE ELECTION MUST BE FILED ON OCT. 23 OR 24 AND THAT RESULTS 28)) HE ANNOUNCED OCT. 25. SAID INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ASSEMBLY MAY BE INSTALLED BEFORE THE INAUGURATION (SLATED FOR OVT. 31.)

6. INITIALLY THERE WERE 1650 WHO FILED IN FIRST POSTPNG. AT SECOND POSTPNG OCT. 1 THIS DROPPED TO 1240 AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME WITHDRAWALS SINCE.

7. CANDIDATES DESCRIBED AS OLDER (AVERAGE 50 YEARS) THAN 41 YEAR AGE AVERAGE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES.

8. PRIOR TO SHORT CAMPAIGN PERIOD, MATERIALS FOR CAMPAIGN AS LEAFLETS, POSTERS, HAND ILL PRINTED IN MOST PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO ELECTION TRADITION, JOINT MEETINGS HELD WITH ALL CANDIDATES SHARING TPME FOR SPEECHES AND QUESTIONS. TAPED SPEECHES FOR LOCAL RADIO BROADCASTS ALSO USED IN CAMPAIGN.

9. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD SHORT, MANY CANDIDATES ACTIVE UNOFFICIALLY FOR LONG TIMEAS THEY ARE LOCAL FIGURES AND KNOWN THEIR AREA.

10. REST OF QUESTIOMS CONCERNED WITH ORIGINS, PROFESSIONS, ETC. OF CANDIDATES.

BUNKER

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED